

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 NEA-07 SS-14 /029 W

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R 011455Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3931

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 9573

LIMDIS

IO FOR ASST. SEC. LEWIS, TOUSSAINT AND PALMER

PASS LABOR FOR SECY USERY, SEGALL AND HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: DE ALWIS REMARKS AT ILO GB

REF: (A) STATE 290905 (B) GENEVA 9380

1. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION OF APPROACH TO SRI LANKA (REF A), WE ARE TRANSMITTING FULL TEXT OF DE ALWIS SPEECH IN THIS MESSAGE. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT TEXT WAS GIVEN TO US IN CONFIDENCE AND DIRECT QUOTATION WOULD SERIOUSLY EMBARRASS COOPERATIVE MEMBER OF ILO SECRETARIAT. PARA THIRTY BELOW IS NOT REPEATED HERE BECAUSE IT WAS TRANSMITTED IN PARA TWO OF REF B.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

2. MR. DEALSWIS - THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. WHEN THE IDEA ON PROPOSALS FOR THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE WAS FIRST MUTED, WE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXPRESSED OUR STRONGEST SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE WE BELIEVED IT WAS AN IMPORTANT WATER SHED IN THE WORK OF THE ILO. IT WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT LANDMARK IN THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ILO TO THE INTERNATIONAL

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COMMUNITY.

3. MR. CHAIRMAN, AS MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE, MR. MORRIS, SAID EVEN THOUGH THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE, THE DOCUMENT THAT CAME OUT FROM THIS CONFERENCE, THE RECOMMENDATIONS DID NOT MEET WITH ALL OUR EXPECTATIONS AND IN CERTAIN AREAS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED GREAT EMPHASIS. STILL, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REGARDED THIS DOCUMENT AS A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND AS PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ILO TO GIVE A LENDING HAND TOWARDS MEETING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THIS WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE. FOR THIS, MR. CHAIRMAN, I THINK WE SHOULD PLACE ON RECORD OUR APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY OUR DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN, THE MINISTER OF TUNISIA, MR. ENNACEUR, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, THE MINISTER OF INDONESIA, MR. (?)

4. BUT MR. CHAIRMAN, DECLARATIONS ALONE WE HAVE FOUND FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE SERVE NO PURPOSE, UNLESS THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED AND THAT SO ON AN URGENT BASIS. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF DECLARATIONS, MR. CHAIRMAN, AS TO HOW THE PROBLEMS FACING THIS WORLD, THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THIS WORLD COULD BE SOLVED. BUT WHAT IS LACKING IS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND WE OF THE 77, MR. CHAIRMAN, GIVE GREAT EMPHASIS TO IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN DECLARATIONS.

5. WE HAVE TWO OTHER FORA, UNCTAD AND LIMA, HAVE GONE THROUGH THIS EXERCISE. THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE LAID OUT THE BASIS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE LIMA DECLARATION LAID OUT A PROGRAMME FOR ENABLING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY 2080 25 PER CENT OF THE SHARE OF THE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH OF THIS WORLD. I AM IN THOSE TWO ORGANISATIONS, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE SECRETARIATS OF THESE ORGANISATIONS PRODUCE THE PAPERS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE TWO RESOLUTIONS.

I CAN SAY THAT, AT THE LAST TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, THERE WAS A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN THESE DECLARATIONS INVOLVED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, INVOLVED ADDITIONAL STAFF, INVOLVED THE REDEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES AND THE REDEPLOYMENT OF STAFF.
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A COMMITMENT WAS MADE BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO INCREASE THE RESOURCES WHERE APPROPRIATE TOWARDS CARRYING OUT THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY CONSENSUS.

6. SIMILARLY, LAST WEEK IN VIENNA, I PUT THE QUESTION DIRECTLY TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHETHER THE UNDERTAKINGS THEY HAD GIVEN IN LIMA DID NOT INVOLVE A REDEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES AND OF PERSONNEL WITHIN UNIDO AND ALSO, WHERE NECESSARY, ADDITIONAL

RESOURCES, AND I GOT A POSITIVE COMMITMENT ON THAT SCORE.

7. SIMILARLY, AND WHY I HAVE QUOTED THESE TWO EXAPLES IS TO SHOW THAT, WHEN WE ADOPTED THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME, THERE WERE CERTAIN UNDERTAKINGS, THERE WERE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY UNDERTOOK WHEN IT ACCEPTED THAT PROGRAMME ON A CONSENSUS BASIS. I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT I STAND HERE ASKING FOR ADDITONAL RESOURCES OR ADDITIONAL STAFF. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT WE MUST MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAMME. IT MAY MEAN THE REDEPLOYMENT OF EXISTING STAFF, IT MAY MEAN GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE EMPLOYMENT DIVISION OF THE ILO, IT MAY MEAN THE TRANSFER OF GREATER RESOURCES, BECAUSE TO US IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME IS AN IMPORTANT LANDMARK, AN IMPORTANT PROGRAMME IN WHICH THE ILO CAN MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION BY WAY OF CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

8. WE HAVE READ THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL VERY CAREFULLY AND ALSO THE STATEMENT THAT HE MADE YESTERDAY. WHEN WE FORWARD THESE DOCUMENTS TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, WE SHOULD ALSO BE IN A POSITION TO SAY WHAT ACTION WE OURSELVES ARE TAKING, SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND, AT THE SAME TIME ALSO, TO GIVE THEM AN INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS AND OUR DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAMME WHICH THIS ORGANISATION HAS BROUGHT OUT. FOR THAT REASON, MY DELEGATION - AND I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 ALSO - WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH HAPPIER IF WE COULD HAVE HAD SOME INDICATION, A LITTLE MORE DETAIL, OF THE PROGRAMMES AND THE ACTION WHICH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND HIS STAFF PROPOSE TO TAKE WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAMME.

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9. I MUST SAY THAT I WAS SOMEWHAT REASSURED BY THE STATEMENT HE MADE YESTERDAY WITH REGARD TO THIS INTENTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAMME, AND WE WOULD WELCOME A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM HIM THAT HE WOULD, AT THE NEXT SESSION, PRESENT A COMPLETE PICTURE AND A COMPLETE SET OF PROPOSALS AS TO HOW HE PROPOSES TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAMME.

10. THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FROM TUNISIA WILL, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77, BE PRESENTING A SET OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS AS TO HOW THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WANT THIS PROGRAMME TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

11. YESTERDAY, THE HONOURABLE MINISTER REFERRED TO THE CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WHICH WAS HELD IN MY COUNTRY AND HE SAID THAT THREE CO-ORDINATED COUNTRIES - TUNISIA, PANAMA AND SRI LANKA - WERE APPOINTED BY

THE HEADS OF STATE, (86 HEADS OF STATE AND 11 OBSERVER COUNTRIES WERE PRESENT AT THIS CONFERENCE) TO MONITOR AND TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE ILO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT THIS WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

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ACTION IO-06

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3932

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 GENEVA 9573

LIMDIS

IO FOR ASST. SEC. LEWIS, TOUSSAINT AND PALMER

PASS LABOR FOR SECY USERY, SEGALL AND HOROWITZ

12. I WOULD LIKE TO RE-EMPHASISE WHAT HE SAID - AND I DO NOT WANT TO REPEAT WHAT HE HAS ALREADY SAID WITH REGARD TO THE DECLARATION OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP - BUT TO SAY THAT WE ARE HERE READY TO ASSIST AND CO-OPERATE WITH THE ORGANISATIONS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS PROGRAMME.

13. WE RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS A SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM APPROACH TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION. SOME CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION, SOME MAY CALL FOR ACTION ON A LONG-TERM BASIS, PARTLY CONDITIONED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES.

14. WE HAVE, IN THAT CONFERENCE, IDENTIFIED THE PRIORITIES AND WE ARE THEREFORE IN A POSITION, AS I SAID, TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE SECRETARIAT TO INDICATE WHAT THE PRIORITIES ARE AS FAR AS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AL OF US WHO ARE RESIDENT IN GENEVA WOULD PRESUME THAT WE WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THIS

MATTER WHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAMME IS BEING WORKED OUT IN THE SECRETARIAT.

15. APART FROM THAT, WE, AS THREE OF THE CO-ORDINATED COUNTRIES, HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT TO THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES - WHICH IS TO BE CONVENED SOME TIME IN EARLY SPRING NEXT YEAR - ON THE PROGRESS ON THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICULAR PROGRAMME, AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT A CONCRETE REPORT WITH REGARD TO THE ACTION BEING TAKEN BY THE ILO.

16. I HAVE ALSO - ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 - BEEN ASKED TO MAKE A PROPOSAL, A FORMAL PROPOSAL, AND I SHALL READ THE PROPOSAL.

17. THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE GROUP OF 77 CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ADOPTED BY THE TRIPARTITE WORLD CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR, HELD IN GENEVA FROM 4 TO 17 JUNE 1976, RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

18. REGARDING PARAGRAPH 18 OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ADOPTED BY THE TRIPARTITE WORLD CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR, HELD IN GENEVA FROM 4 TO 17 JUNE 1976, THE GROUP OF 77 CONSIDERS THAT ALL THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST PUT INTO EFFECT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER WHICH IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES AND IS IN ACCORD WITH THE DECLARATIONS AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

19. YOU WILL NOTICE FROM THIS PROPOSAL WHICH I HAVE JUST MADE THE EMPHASIS WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE RIGHTLY PLACING ON THE NEED TO PUT INTO EFFECT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER ARE CLOSELY ENMESHED, AND THAT THE TWO MUST BE IMPLEMENTED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND CONCURRENTLY.

20. ON THIS POINT, I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE FROM THE DECLARATION FROM THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT WHICH (... COUPLE OF WORDS MISSING ...) INDICATE THE THINKING OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

POINT OF ORDER

21. MR. HOROWITZ - MAY I APPEAL TO THE CHAIRMAN THAT, SINCE WE ARE DISCUSSING ITEM 3 OF THE AGENDA WHICH READS "REPORT

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OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRIPARTITE WORLD CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR" THAT THE DISCUSSION LIMIT ITSELF TO THAT AND NOT TO MATTERS WHICH MAY BE OF INTENSE INTEREST TO SOME MEMBERS BUT WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY ON OUR AGENDA. WE ARE NOT HERE ATTEMPTING TO TAKE POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN THE LAST FEW MOMENTS BY AMBASSADOR DE ALWIN. WE ARE NOT HERE TO REVIEW AND APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. LET US STAY WITHIN - WE HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS, IMPORTANT PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGENDA ITEM. LET US NOT TAKE ON THE WORK OF OTHER AGENCIES AS WELL.

22. INTERPRETATION FROM GERMAN: THE CHAIRMAN - THANK YOU. I MIGHT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT I HAVE A LIST OF 13 SPEAKERS.

23. MR. DE AIWIS - I HAVE LISTEDED WITH INTEREST TO THE POINT OF ORDER WHICH HAS JUST BEEN RAISED BY MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE FROM THE UNITED STATES. AS I SAID, WE ARE NOT WORKING IN WATERTIGHT COMPARTMENTS - WE ARE REFERRING THIS DECLARATION TO TOEHER AGENCIES ALSO FOR IMPLEMENTATION. AS I SAID, THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER ARE CLOSELY INTER-RELATED, AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE OF THE GROUP OF 77 HAVE TABLED THIS PROPOSAL. I AM AWARE THAT, WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HOLD SIMILAR VIEWS AND, UNFORTUNATELY (I AM NOT GOING TO MENTION NAMES BUT THEY DID FIGURE YESTERDAY IN THE DISCUSSIONS) THEY HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES ON THIS SCORE BECAUSE THEY HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE TWO ARE CLOSELY INTER-RELATED, AND I THINK RIGHTLY SO.

24. MR. CHAIRMAN, THE WHITES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CANNOT BE STILLED. WE HAVE BEEN AT THE RECEIVING END ALL THIS TIME AND ALL WE ARE ASKING IS FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, AND I HOPE NOBODY IN THIS ROOM REPRESENTING THE DEVELOPED WORLD IS GOING TO DEPRIVE US OF OR DENY US THIS OPPORTUNITY.

25. WHEN I WAS INTERRUPTED I WAS READING FROM THE ECONOMIC DECLARATION OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, AND I SHALL READ THAT: "THE HEADS OF STATE OF GOVERNMENTS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES
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CONSIDER THAT ECONOMIC (INTERPRETER'S INTERRUPTION: NOT TOO FAST

PLEASE, THE READER) (... FEW WORDS MISSING ...) INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS TODAY. THE CRISIS IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM CONTINUES
TO ASSUME EVER-GROWING PROPORTIONS. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE
THE VICTIMS OF THIS WORLD-WIDE CRISIS WHICH SEVERELY AFFECTS
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THE WIDENING OF THE GAP
BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS ONE OF THE MOST
THREATENING SOURCES OF TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS. IT IS INCREASINGLY
EVIDENT THAT THE EXISTING SYSTEM CANNOT ENSURE THE PROMOTION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND HASTEN THE
ERADICATION OF POVERTY, HUNGER, SICKNESS, ILLITERACY, AND ALL
THOSE SOCIAL SCOURGES ENGENDERED BY CENTURIES OF DOMINATION
AND EXPLOITATION. THUS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTER-
NATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER IS OF THE UTMOST POLITICAL IMPORTANCE,
THE STRATEGY FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND
ITS FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES AND DOMESTIC
ACTIVITIES AND FOR THE GREATER PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS AND THE
RENDERING OF SERVICES AND BASIC CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL
DIVISION OF LABOUR ASSUMES THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. BREAKING UP
OF THE RESISTANCE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR THE NEW ORDER REPRESENTS
THE PRIMARY TASK OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND OF THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES."

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ACTION IO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 GENEVA 9573

LIMDIS

IO FOR ASST. SEC. LEWIS, TOUSSAINT AND PALMER

PASS LABOR FOR SECY USERY, SEGALL AND HOROWITZ

26. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN ASKING THIS, WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR WE ARE NOT CHASING THE INCOME LEVELS OF THE RICH, WE DO NOT WISH TO IMITATE THEIR LIFESTYLES, WE ARE ONLY SUGGESTING THAT OUR SOCIETIES MUST HAVE A DECENT CHANCE OT DEVELOP ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITHOUT SYSTEMATIC DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US. ACCORDING TO OUR OWN VALUE SYSTEMS AND IN LINE WITH OUR OWN CULTURAL TRADITONS, WE ARE NOT SKING FOR A FEW CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF THE RICH, WE ARE ASKING FOR A FAIR CHANCE TO MAKE IT ON OUR OWN.

27. THERE IS ONE OTHER MATTER WHICH I WANT TO REFER TO. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE GROUP OF 77 IS NOT A MERE CATCHWORD; IT IS A POLITICAL AND AN ECONOMIC FORCE, A NEW TRADE UNION OF THE POORT NATIONS IS EMERGING, A TRADE UNION WHICH CUTS ACROSS ANY IDEOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES, A TRADE UNION OF THE POOR, AND OUR DEMANDS ARE FOR THE FREEDOMS OF FREEDOM FROM HUNGER, FREEDOM FROM POVERTY - BASIC FREEDOMS. WE ARE NOT DEMANDING, AS I SAID, TO IMITATE THE LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH. THESE ARE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES FOR OUR PEOPLES, WE CANNOT COMPROMISE ON THESE OBJECTIVES, WE ARE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON THE MEANS TO ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES. WE HAVE COME AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE, AS AN INTERNA-TIONAL TRADE UNION, TO NEGOTIATE IN THE CORRECT SPIRIT, TO BE ABLE
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TO OBTAIN THESE BASIC DEMANDS BEFORE WE GO INTO QUESTIONS OF IMPROVING THE WORKING CONDITIONS THERE ARE STILL MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES WHICH WE IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES KNOW, AND THOSE ARE QUESTIONS OF POVERTY. AND JUST TO REMIND MY COLLEAGUES, I WOULD JUST QUOTE FROM THE MOST RECENT STATEMENT OF MR. ROBERT MACNAMARA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK, WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE MANILA MEETING, AND I SAY IT, MR. CHAIRMAN, BECAUSE SOMETIMES THERE IS A TENDENCY TO FORGET THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE INTENSITY OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND I QUOTE: "THE PAST DECADE FOR MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE POOREST NATIONS HAS BEEN ONE OF ALMOST UNRELIEVED DEPRIVATION, AND THE FUTURE OFFERS LITTLE PROMISE OF IMPROVEMENT UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL SHIFTS IN POLICY ARE UNDERTAKEN BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THESE NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ITSELF. WE MUST TRY TO COMPREHEND WHAT WE IN FACT MEAN WHEN WE SPEAK OF POVERTY IN THIS CONTEXT. THE WORD ITSELF HAS BECOME ALMOST INCAPABLE OF COMMUNICATING THE HARSHNESS OF THE REALITY. POVERTY AT THE ABSOLUTE LEVEL, WHICH IS WHAT LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN, AND MOST PARTICULARLY CHILDREN, ARE SUFFERING FROM IN THESE COUNTRIES, IS LIFE AT THE VERY MARGIN OF PHYSICAL EXISTENCE. THE ABSOLUTE POOR ARE SEVERELY DEPRIVED HUMAN BEING STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE IN A SET OF SQUALID AND DEGRADING CIRCUMASTANCES ALMOST BEYOND THE POWER OF OUR SOPHISTICATED IMAGINATIONS AND

PRIVILEGED CIRCUMSTANCES TO CONCEIVE. IT IS NOT A SCENE THAT ANY ONE OF US HERE SO FAVOURED, SO FORTUNATE, SO SURROUNDED IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES BY PRIVILEGE AND ADVANTAGE CAN CONTEMPLATE WITHOUT COMPASSION AND RESOLVE. THE BLUNT TRUTH IS THAT ABSOLUTE POVERTY TODAY IS A FUNCTION OF NEGLECT, AND OF OUR NEGLECT AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE, FOR WE IN THIS HALL REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENTS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BEST SUITED TO END THE CURSE OF ABSOLUTE POVERTY IN THIS CENTURY. POVERTY TENDS TO PERPETUATE ITSELF AND UNLESS A DELIBERATE INTERVENTION IS DESIGNED AND LAUNCHED AGAINST THE INTERNAL DYNAMICS IT WILL PERSIST AND GROW". I HAVE QUOTED FROM THIS JUST TO BRING HOME THE FACT THAT WHEN WE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COME HERE AND SPEAK WE SPEAK OF THAT TYPE OF POVERTY NOT OF TRYING TO IMPROVE THE WORKING CONDITIONS ONLY OF PEOPLE, WE FULLY SUBSCRIBE TO THOSE, WE ARE PREPARED, WE DO NOT LACK THE POLITICAL WILL TO IMPROVE THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE WORKING

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CLASSES, WE STAND FOR THAT. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE FUNDAMENTAL, AND THAT IS WHY THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME GAVE US SOME HOPE AND WE HOPE THAT WE CAN RELY ON THE GOOD WILL OF ALL THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO IMPLEMENT THAT PROGRAMME, MUST AS WE WANT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER TO BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

28. I SHALL GIVE YOU ONE MORE QUOTATION, MR. CHAIRMAN, - AND AGAIN FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BECAUSE I THINK IT IS BEST IN THAT FORM TO BE ABLE TO BRING HOME TO THOSE WHO ARE HERE THAT THERE IS A FEELING WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AND THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO TRY TO STOP DISCUSSIONS OR TO PUSH THINGS UNDER THE TABLE AS MR. MORRIS RIGHTLY POINTED OUT. THESE ARE ISSUES WHICH HAVE TO BE FACED, AND FACED AS SOON AS WE CAN, IN THE INTERESTS OF THOSE VERY PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO STOP DISCUSSION OR PUT THESE UNDER THE CARPET, AND I AM QUOTING HERE - IT IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO YOU MR. CHAIRMAN BECAUSE IT COMES FROM THE STATEMENT WHICH WAS MADE BY THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, MR. EGAN BARR, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH SOUTH-WEST GERMAN RADIO ON 22 AUGUST, AND HE STATED HIS POSITION AND ASKED WHETHER TODAY'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY REFLECTS A JOINT SEARCH FOR A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM BUT WOULD GRANT MORE RIGHT TO COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD. MR. BARR REPLIED: "I SHOULD SAY THAT UP TO NOW THE POLICY OF THAT AID, THAT ITS PROJECTS, WAS MUCH MORE IN THE FOREGROUND THAN WAS CALLED FOR. TODAY WE MUST FEAR, LEST THE DISCUSSION OF A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM GOES TOO FAR IN THE OTHER DIRECTION- THAT IS BY THRUSTING PRACTICAL WORK AND PROJECTS FROM PUBLIC ATTENTION. THE FACT IS THAT MORE ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO IT. WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF A MAJOR DECISION IN THE COMING YEARS. IN THE COMING YEARS

WE SHALL WITNESS A DECISION AS TO WHETHER ON THE ONE HAND THE MAJORITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - THE MAJORITY THAT WANTS TO REFORM THE EXISTING WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM - WINS OUT, OR ON THE OTHER HAND THE MINORITY, WHICH IN A SENSE WANTS TO DO AWAY WITH THE EXISTING WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM, HAS ITS WAY. AND IF WE WANT TO HELP THE MAJORITY TO REMAIN A MAJORITY, THEN WE MUST SAY YES TO SUCH REFORMS OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM. TO THE QUESTION WHETHER THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DEMAND A CHANGE SINCE THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, THE MINISTER SAID "I WOULD REPLY WITH A CLEAR 'YES'" - THAT IS DURING THIS
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PERIOD BETWEEN THE SPECIAL UN CONFERENCE AND THE FOURTH WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI AND THE JUST-CONCLUDED EVENTS IN COLOMBO. WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT MOST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN OR HAVE BECOME ORIENTED TO ITS CO-OPERATION. BUT NOW COMES THE QUALIFICATION. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT, THAT ONLY A LIMITED TIME REMAINS IN WHICH TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES. WE HAVE DONE A GREAT DEAL OF THEORISING, NOW SOMEHOW FLESH MUST BE PUT ON THESE BONES.

29. YOU SEE, MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE QUOTED THIS TO SHOW THAT PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE NOT ONLY THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE TO BE FACED BUT ALSO THE URGENCY OF THESE PROBLEMS. THIS IS WHY I SAID AT THE BEGINNING THAT WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED IF ON THIS WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME WE HAD FROM THE SECRETARIAT SOME INDICATION IN ADVANCE OF THE THINKING WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT SO THAT WE COULD HAVE HAD A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THIS MEETING. WELL I HAVE SAID WE STAND REASSURED, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT, AS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAID, WE WOULD HAVE BY THE NEXT GOVERNING BODY MEETING A CONCRETE PROGRAMME FROM THE SECRETARIAT WHICH WE CAN DISCUSS USEFULLY TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THIS WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME.

(PARA 30, SEE PARA 2 GENEVA 9380)

31. ALSO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD, IN A FEW YEARS' TIME, HAVE 90 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. TODAY THE DEVELOPED WORLD HAS 30 PER CENT BUT, WITH THE POPULATION GROWTH IN THESE COUNTRIES, THIS WOULD BE A SHRINKING MINORITY. THE DEVELOPED WORLD WOULD NEED THE DEVELOPING WORLD, BOTH TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROGRAMMES OF THEIR OWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THERE WOULD BE A GREATER DEGREE OF DEPENDENCE ON THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

32. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STAND READY FOR NEGOTIATIONS. WE WANT TO WORK WITH THE REST OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND WE HOPE AND TRUST THAT WE WILL HAVE THEIR SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION. END TEXT. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Image Path:
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Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 290905, 76 GENEVA 9380
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DE ALWIS REMARKS AT ILO GB
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, (DE ALWIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006